

Some students prefer to take a gap year between high school and university, to work or to travel.

Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?

In today's world, there has been an 1 _____ of students taking a break from studying before pursuing 2 _____. While this trend is beneficial to some extent, I am firmly of the opinion that its shortcomings are weightier for the followers of this trend.

A gap year may enable students to 3 _____ real-life experiences that are beneficial to their future. These may include having a paid job, from which those who have just 4 _____ may learn many working skills, such as communication, teamwork and following orders. As a result, the youngsters taking a gap year are 5 _____ for their future jobs. Some may also travel the world and 6 _____ of 7 _____ and from different geographical contexts. In this globalised world, such knowledge is essential for developing a successful career.

However, I strongly believe the disadvantages of taking a gap year for recent high-school graduates are serious, far outweighing the advantages. The primary reason is that the young can be overwhelmed by the unwanted difficulties of life outside of school campus. For example, a 8 _____ can be exhausting for most school-leavers. Another significant reason is that to the youngsters without 9 _____, earning money and living without the discipline of 10 _____ could be more 11 _____ than returning to school after the gap year. Consequently, there could be a 12 _____ of intellectual workforce in the future as there will be fewer university students.

All in all, I personally believe that there are some serious drawbacks associated with a gap year that far outweigh the potential gains.

(1) accelerating trend

(2) tertiary education

(3) enrich themselves with

(4) entered adulthood

(5) better prepared

(6) absorb knowledge

(7) diverse cultural settings

(8) physically demanding job

(9) firm determination

(10) formal schooling

(11) appealing

(12) scarcity